The personnel below the rank of officers who have been granted voluntary retirement in the last three years, force-wise is as under:

Year	Army	Navy	Air Force
2004	15727	9	371
2005	10534	9	986
2006	8994	13	1222

The remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard are:-

(a) allowing time-bound promotions up to the rank of Colonels and equivalent.

(b) undertaking the married accommodation project for overcoming the shortage of family accommodation.

(c) creation/upgradation of posts upto the rank of Colonel and equivalent to hasten promotion.

(d) creation of the rank of Colonel (Time-Scale) and equivalent for time-bound promotion of superseded officers.

(e) professional courses for superannuating officers.

Increase in murder and suicide cases in army

†1107. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cases of murder and suicides are increasing in the Army;

(b) whether any enquiry had been conducted in 2007 in respect of promotion policy, officers behaviours and lack of facilities; and

(c) if not, by when the same will be conducted?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) The number of suicide cases in the Army is not significantly higher if compared with the national average and also with the Armies of some other countries. There have also been some incidents of fratricide in the Army. All such incidents of suicide and fratricide are viewed seriously and enquired into. Appropriate remedial measures are also taken.

(b) No enquiry has been conducted in 2007 in respect of promotion policy, officers' behaviour and lack of facilities. However, a study has been carried out by the Defence Institute of Psychological Research (DIPR) to identify factors, which lead to these incidents and suggest remedial measures. The study report has been submitted in February, 2007. A series of measures have been taken to improve service conditions and to attend to the issue of stress among the service personnel.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Improvement in service conditions and amenities for the service personnel is an ongoing process.

(c) There is no such proposal.

Purchase of missiles from Israel

1108. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is purchasing a range of missiles from Israel;

(b) if so, the details thereof including budgetary allocations and spending on this count;

(c) whether it is a fact that the missiles that are being procured from Israel are affecting the development of indigenous missile systems; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Procurement of defence items including missiles is made from various indigenous as well as foreign sources including Israel in accordance with the well laid down defence procurement procedure. This is a continuous process undertaken for the modernisation of the Armed Forces to keep them in a state of readiness to meet any eventuality. Divulging details in this regard on the floor of the House would not be in the interest of national security.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Women officers in three defence services

1109. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of women officers presently working in all the three defence services of India;

(b) how many suicidal cases occurred in the defence services, particularly women officers since last five years;

(c) what is the exact cause and circumstances which drove these women officer's to suicide in defence forces; and

(d) the details of steps taken by Government so far for preventing such incidents, particularly of women officers' suicide?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) The number of women officers presently working in the three Services is as follows:

Army	Air Force	Navy
945	739	236